

Joint Policy Committee

Feb. 18, 2005

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter

101 8th Street

Oakland, CA 94607

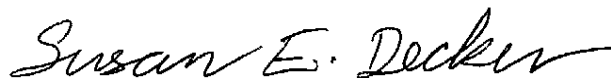
Dear Joint Policy Committee:

Alameda Transit Advocates was pleased to learn that the MTC and JPC are proposing a policy to tie funding for new transit projects to concentrations of housing and jobs along transit corridors. To truly make such a policy effective, we believe that it must include guidelines for ensuring good pedestrian and bicycle access to stations, as well as encouraging a mixture of housing that includes affordable units.

Creating a good pedestrian and bicycle environment means not only incorporating plenty of sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and short blocks into development around transit, but also limiting accommodations for cars. Fast-moving car traffic, large parking lots, and parking garages are hazardous for pedestrians, and reduce the vitality of neighborhoods. Furthermore, as MTC spokesman Randy Rentschler agreed in a recent conversation, minimizing parking around transit stations is crucial to increasing ridership to and from the housing and other surrounding uses.

We believe that a truly useful and environmentally responsible transit system is one that is an integral part of residential, commercial, and mixed-use neighborhoods. A system that relies heavily on park-and-ride lots does not go far enough towards reducing pollution, increasing mobility, and fostering pleasant human environments. To further these goals, we urge you to adopt the Livable Communities Platform, as outlined by the Transportation and Land Use Coalition.

Sincerely,



Susan Decker

Alameda Transit Advocates

(510) 864-8539